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Message Text

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63
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03

/055 W
---------- 127651
R 131636Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818
INFO AMCONSUL GENOA

UNCLAS ROME 11292

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BBAK, ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: TORRINGTON PLANT PROBLEM: LEGAL STATUS AND
MINISTER'S REQUEST TO MEET WITH DIRECTORS

REF: GENOA 0358

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED EMBASSY JULY 12 TO ADVISE THAT, AT REQUEST OF MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE DONAT CATTIN, MINISTRY WAS INFORMING ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT DONAT CATTIN WISHED TO MEET WITH DIRECTORS (TERM USED BY HIM WAS "OWNERS") OF TORRINGTON IN EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION TO OF ITS GENOA PLANT PROBLEM. DONAT CATTIN CLAIMED THAT LEGAL UNCERTA-INTIES (SEE BELOW) HAD CREATED VERY DELICATE SITUATION AND THAT TORRINGTON'S DESIRE TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT TO BRAZIL DESPITE WORKER OCCUPATION OF PLANT RAISED FEARS OF "VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" I.E. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. FOREIGN MINISTRY FURTHER QUOTED DONAT CATTIN AS STATING THAT LOCAL PREFECT AND MAYOR HAD REQUESTED GOI'S ASSISTANCE AND DONAT CATTIN'S CONTACTS THUS FAR WITH LOCAL COMPANY OFFICIALS AND LAWYERS HAD NOT PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

2. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, REQUISITION ORDER OF TORRINGTON PLANT BY MAYOR OF GENOA WAS SUSPENDED REPEAT SUSPENDED BY REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, NOT OVERTURNED. HENCE LEGAL
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STATUS OF REQUISITION ORDER REMAINS UNCERTAIN. AMCONSUL GENOA

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REPORTS THAT GENOA MAYOR MAY APPEAL SUSPENSION WITHIN 60 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF COURT'S DECISION. ALTHOUGH DECISION WAS MADE JUNE 3, MAYOR HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSERTS THAT BECAUSE OF COURT DECISION TORRINGTON NOW BELIEVES THERE ARE NO LONGER LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO REMOVAL OF EQUIPMENT FROM TORRINGTON PLANT FOR SHIPMENT OUTSIDE OF ITALY. ON OTHER HAND, ANY SUCH ACTION BY TORRINGTON, IT IS UNIVERSALLY AGREED, WOULD LEAD TO DISORDERS BY WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN OCCUPYING TORRINGTON'S PLANT FOR PAST YEAR.

4. ACCORDING TO AMCONSUL GENOA, TORRINGTON'S STRATEGY AT THE MOMENT IS TO SIT TIGHT. GOVERNMENT AGENCY GEPI-IPO WILL PAY WORKERS UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

5. ALTHOUGH ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL TRANSMIT DONAT CATTIN'S MESSAGE TO TORRINGTON, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT CONTACT FIRM TO REVIEW SITUATION AND OBTAIN READING ON ITS INTENTIONS.BEAUDRY

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